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- (54) An improved method for efficient tax legislation and planning
- (67) A unique improved quasi-scientific method, utilising (by physical presentation) a combination of algorithms and decision tables (depicting the narrative form of the fiscal legislation) and a specific four way test, for the immediate interpretation of fiscal legislation for the purpose of achieving tax efficiency for either the tax avoider or, equally efficaciously, the tax collector, and which also provides a teaching and learning tool in the field of fiscal law.

SPECIFICATION

65 process to be computerized.

An improved method for efficient tax legislation and planning

	An improved method for efficient tax legislation and planning	
5	1. This invention relates firstly to a process (i.e. art or method) for efficient tax avoidance/-collection by quazi scientific means by which is meant a process for greater and more scientific proficiency which can be achieved by either:-	5
	(a) those seeking legitimately to so plan or conduct their affairs in such a way as to attract the minimum of tax; (and the emphasis here is the action taken is entirely legal) ("tax	
10	avoidance"), or (b) those seeking to minimize the possible avenues for tax avoidance and to provide efficient	10
	taxation legislation on behalf of the taxation authority (which is usually the State or the duly authorised State body).	
15	2. THE "DECISION TABLE"—AID TO EXCLUSION OF DISTORTION IN PRESENTATION AND INTEPRETATION OF FISCAL LEGISLATION In addition (i.e. secondly), one of the elements of the process "the decision table" referred to	15
	below provides a novel and unique method of presenting, and interpreting, fiscal legislation and a method of assisting in the teaching of students in fiscal law. By following, on the table, the yes/no situations, and the position (or deduction) to which they lead, the right conclusion is	
20	reached far more easily than if one attempted to understand the involved type of statement, in narrative form, that usually goes to make up fiscal legislation. The reader (or receiver) is "told"	20
	something in a simple uncomplicated way that EXCLUDES the possibility of distortion. This is illustrated by example below. Now to return to "Tax avoidance/collection efficiency". 3. TAX AVOIDANCE/COLLECTION EFFICIENCY	
25	process favours neither at the expense of the other.	25
	(b) There are certain elements of the process that are known processes, but it is submitted that the application and mixing of the known processes in a field totally unrelated to their normal known fields and the utilisation of the result in a quasi scientific manner and according	
30	to a defined method, has produced an attractive and novel idea not hitherto available or at least a new and useful improvement of the known processes that would prove in great demand, in business, professional, government and academic fields—everywhere where tax or fiscal	30
25	considerations are important. (c) The scope of this process is limited to the charging provisions (in the widest sense of the	35
35	phrase) of fiscal legislation, because it would not achieve any quasi scientific objective in any field other than one in which "one has to look merely at what is clearly said" one where, "there is no room for any intendment".	
	(d) It is therefore based upon the premises (inherent) in fiscal legislation) that in such "charging provisions"—	
40	"There is no room for any intendment" "There is no equity about a tax" "There is no presumption as to a tax.	40
	Nothing is to be read in, nothing is to be implied, one can only look fairly at the language used".	
45	(e) In other words tax will only be payable where there is a provision in the fiscal legislation that it should be, otherwise it will be, not matter what the "equity" considerations may be. (f) On the other hand the fiscus must ensure an efficient foolproof taxation system to	45
50	enhance the State, and to this end it is most desirable to reduce pro tanto the load of tax on the shoulders of the citizens of the State by ensuring the most watertight fiscal legislation. (g) The process is equally useful to achievers in either of these fields.	50
	(h) The Preliminary Mechanics	
55	The first important step in this invention is to expose the syntax and structure of the language of the particular fiscal legislation—(rather like exposing "a herring bone" by separating the meat therefrom). The object is to expose "diagramatically" each element thereby enabling the separate elments of such "exposed" structure and syntax to be tested in isolation so as to	55
	pinpoint the differences and alternatives that can legitimately and without any abnormality be achieved from each such point of departure. (In some cases one may well be seeking to elimiate the differences that exist between a known state of affairs, and the desired state of affairs, and	
60	so for example coincide with what is required, say, for a "deduction" from income (in all cases with such normality as would meet the test of any anti avoidance legislation in that regard). The techniques, which are known processes, to achieve such exposure, are those of	60
	algorithms or logical charts, which are directly akin to "flow charting", in computer programming and "decision tables" also a computer programming tool; thus allowing this part of the	
65	process to be computerized.	65

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These techniques each have a distinctive visual impact which although they may take different forms are essentially immutable in substance once formulated. The possibility of distortion is excluded. The "elements" are each yes/no situations which contain a question giving one answer. The fiscal statement is dissected into these elements which can then be presented in either form. It is acknowledged that not all such legislation may be suscepticle to such treatment (further research is to be carried out here) but such sections thereof as are susceptible to such reduction are reduced to algorithmic form, and/or "decision table" form.

The examples set out on page 12 and ff, are random examples showing the reduction of sections of the current South African fiscal legislation, to such format. These examples are vital 10 to this specification and illustrate how this stage is reached. They are composite examples showing the entire process and should be referred to now and during the reading of this text, so as to make this explanation more lucid and to give substance at each stage.

(i) The final mechanics

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A most important and useful advantage is achieved at this stage of the process by excluding the possibilities of distortion and achieving a degree of immutability which eliminates the need for repeated reference to the normal language format of the legislation and normal interpretation thereof, which because of the involved type of statement, and the introduction of the "human element" on each such occasion, is a time consuming (hazardous) and frustrating operation. The 20 algorithmic/decision table format has produced an almost "scientific" model of the yes and no situations which has at its bye products the reduction of frustration and time spent.

Having reached this most advantageous and desirable state the most important stage of the process can now follow without the aforesaid frustrations and without time loss. This stage is the systematic inspection of each such "element or unit" (each spine of the herring bone as it 25 were), and the application to each such element (which is in the form of a question) of four basic tests (these can be added to amplified and/or refined, and it is not intended that I should be limited in this regard; but the following are the most basic and are sufficiently illustrative of the process). The first test is the test ("the antithesis test") for antonyms for each word in the 'element". The following (second and third) tests are for opposites and differences and the final 30 test is a test for coincidence (see more fully explained below) (all within the bounds of normalcy and most importantly bearing in mind in each, legal interpretations of words and authorative judicial pronouncement as to that which is "different" or "opposite" or which does not have the same effect, and also with reference to what is "defined" in the particular legislation). If,

from the point of view of the "avoider", one is attempting to escape from a particular yes or no 35 situation, the first three tests are applicable. They indeed are also applicable to the "tax collector" because he can so alter the legislation to include these possibilities and thus eliminate the opportunities for such an escape from the particular yes/no situation. The fourth test is one the application of which is designed to bring about an exact coincidence with the requirements of the particular yes/no situation in question (eg. in order to achieve for a tax payer, say, a 40 "deduction from income"), from a position that would otherwise have excluded such coinci-

dence ("the coincidence test"). This fourth test is more attuned to the use of the tax avoider but can nevertheless be used by the tax collector because he can limit the opportunities for such coincidence to isolate only those cases which he feels are entitled to, say, the benefits of a "deduction". Thus (in amplification of the aforegoing) with a known set of facts, or in order to

45 reach a desirable set of facts to achieve tax avoidance or efficient tax collection each test is applied to each yes/no element with the object of reaching the desired end (see examples) as emphasized above. So too the tax collector, by the same tests has the opportunity for repairing glaring weaknesses 'in the dyke' and 'plugging holes' that have appeared, knowing (on a quasi scientific basis) where all "escape routes" are, and thus being able to effectively tighten 50 such to the best of his or his consultants ingenuity, by eliminating differences antonyms or

opposites and variations (for example by including them in the "definition" of a word-Black-includes White"). The position of the two is, as mentioned above, adversary however the invention equally efficacious for both.

55 The invention is shown by illustrations

These tests are known processes in their isolated state. It is submitted that it is the blend of these tests in the medium of the diagramatic representation shown by the algorithms/decision tables, thus making up the process, that is the invention, or at least the useful improvement in respect of the known processes. I proceed by setting out on page 12 and ff certain examples, to 60 illustrate how I achieve what I have set out above. These examples are by way of illustration only and I am not limiting myself to these examples.

4. What is achieved by the invention

From what is set out above and in the examples, it is submitted that the invention as a whole 65 achieves, by its process, a unique method by means of:-

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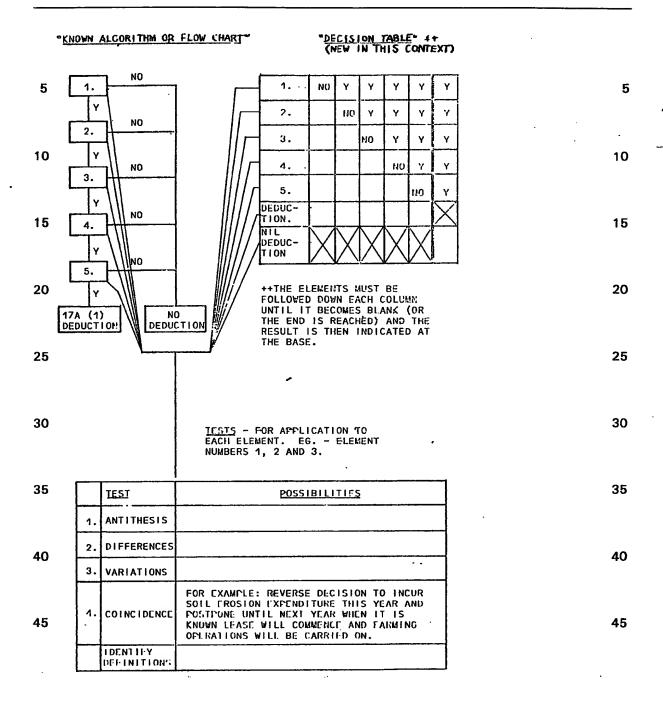
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5	 (a) a quasi scientific approach (b) a visual format (capable of reproduction through common media) (c) the elimination of distortion (and the introduction of a degree of immutability), and (d) time and frustration saving. For utilisation in tax interpretation for tax avoidance and tax collection purposes. This is a useful improvement on known methods of the interpretation of fiscal legislation inherent in achieving tax efficiency in "avoidance" or "collection". These known methods, in contra distinction, rely on normal spoken or written interpretation (by, for example, empirical dexterity) in the traditional, ordinary and well known sense of this expression, of normal 		5
10	O language format, i.e. as it exists prior to the application of the processes making up the invention described herein and illustrated in the examples.		
15	5. GENERAL—COMMUNICATION—"The Receiver" The most convenient media (on the basis that communication forms an integral part of both the "decision table aid to interpretation" and the process for tax efficiency) are diagramatic forms showing the algorithms and/or decision tables and examples of the tests (which are set forth in the examples, in correct juxta position), or by presentation thereof by film, microfilm or on any screen, or in any such form at any computer terminal or videoscreen. (The invention is		15
20	not limited to those or any developments of these media, as any suitable media visible to the or videoscreen). O human eye (or to touch) can be used, including paper, film or projection onto or from a screen or videoscreen). More particularly this (or these methods of reproduction or presentation) will assist in allowing:—		
25	 (a) the interpreter to exclude distortion and save frustration and time, in that he will not be 5 forced repeatedly to use traditional means of interpretation of the normal language format but will be able to refer to a visual model ("the decision table" and the elements) which gives the answers immediately and is constantly before him, and 		
30	(b) the tax collector an opportunity to study and then to amend the legislation in the same way (and with the same advantage) as is described in (a) mutatis mutandis, but now including the whole process i.e. the tests as well, and (c) the tax avoider or planning consultant to achieve the best structure of his or his client's affairs so as to minimize the incidence of tax, in that "the elements" (shown in the examples),		30
35	and the yes/no situations and the results thereof, and the tests, are systematically presented in tabular form in a visual model which is constantly before him in the same way (and with the same advantage as is described in (a) (i.e., in a ''quasi scientific manner''). The examples follow on pages 9 to 16 and these examples form part hereof.		35
40	EXAMPLES EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY A LESSOR OF LAND LET FOR FARMING PURPOSES, IN RESPECT OF SOIL EROSION WORKS.		40
45	17A (1) SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SUB- SECTION (2), THERE SHALL BE ALLOWED TO BE DEDUCTED FROM THE INCOME DERIVED BY ANY TAXPAYER FROM LETTING ANY LAND ON WHICH bona fide PASTORAL, AGRICULTURAL OR OTHER FARMING OPERATIONS WERE CARRIED ON DURING		45
50	THE YEAR OF ASSESSMENT, THE EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY HIM DURING SUCH YEAR IN RESPECT OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOIL EROSION WORKS, PROVIDED A CERTIFICATE BY	"NORMAL LANGUAGE FORMAT"	50
55	THE SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL SERVICES IS PRODUCED TO THE EFFECT THAT SUCH WORKS HAVE BEEN APPROVED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION ACT, 1969 (ACT NO. 76 OF 1969).		55

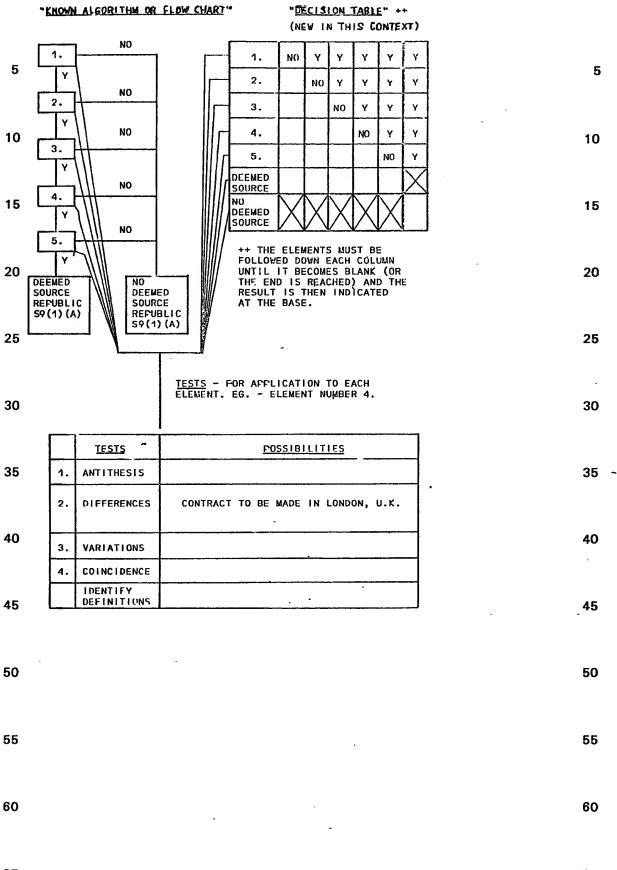


"EXPOSING THE ELEMENTS"

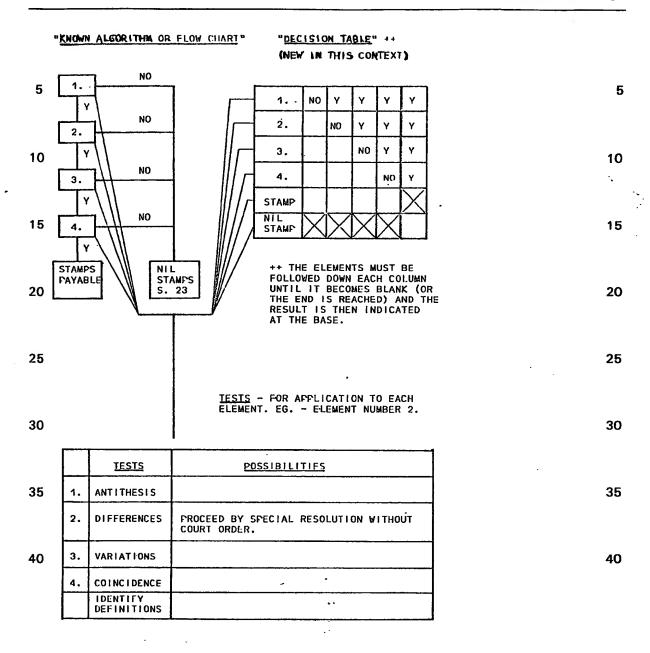
5	ELEMENT NUMBER	THE QUESTIONS GIVING "YES"/"NO" ANSWERS	
J	1.	HAS THE TAXPAYER LET ANY LAND AS LESSOR WITH INCOME THEREFROM?	5
10	2.	WERE bona fide PASTORAL, AGRICULTURAL OR OTHER FARMING OPERATIONS CARRIED ON DURING THE YEAR OF ASSESSMENT ON THAT LAND?	10
15	3.	WAS ANY EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY HIM DURING SUCH YEAR IN RESPECT OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOIL EROSION WORKS?	4.5
	4	WERE SUCH WORKS APPROVED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION ACT?	15
20	5.	HAS THE SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE BEEN PRODUCED TO THAT EFFECT?	20



	ANGUAGE FORMAT'	
	NCES IN WHICH AMOUNTS DEEMED TO HAVE	
	ROM SCOURCES WITHIN THE REPUBLIC.	
	MOUNT SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE AC-	•
ANY PERSOIT HAS BEEN	RECEIVED BY OR HAS ACCRUED TO OR IN	
FOR TH	E SALE OF GOODS, WHETHER SUCH GOODS SEEN DELIVERED OR ARE TO BE DELIVERED	
	•	
"EXPOSING	THE ELEMENTS"	
	THE QUESTIONS GIVING "YES"/"NO" ANSWERS	
1.	HAS ANY AMOUNT BEEN RECEIVED BY OR HAS IT ACCRUED TO OR IN FAVOUR OF ANY PERSON?	
2.	IS SUCH RECEIPT OR ACCRUAL BY VIRTUE OF ANY CONTRACT?	
3.	WAS THE CONTRACT MADE BY HIM?	
4.	MAG THE CONTRACT MADE WITHIN THE DEDING ICS	
	WAS THE CONTRACT MADE WITHIN THE REPUBLIC?	
	CIRCUMSTABEEN ACCRUED FR 9. (1) AN A CRUED TO ANY PERSOI IT HAS BEEN FAVOUR OF (A) ANY CO FOR TH HAVE B IN OR C "EXPOSING ELEMENT NUMBER 1. 2. 3.	"NORMAL LANGUAGE FORMAT" CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH AMOUNTS DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN ACCRUED FROM SCOURCES WITHIN THE REPUBLIC. 9. (1) AN AMOUNT SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE ACCRUED TO ANY PERSON FROM A SCOURCE WITHIN THE REPUBLIC IF IT HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY OR HAS ACCRUED TO OR IN FAVOUR OF SUCH PERSON BY VIRTUE OF (A) ANY CONTRACT MADE BY HIM WITHIN THE REPUBLIC FOR THE SALE OF GOODS, WHETHER SUCH GOODS HAVE BEEN DELIVERED OR ARE TO BE DELIVERED IN OR OUT OF THE REPUBLIC; "EXPOSING THE ELEMENTS" ELEMENT THE QUESTIONS GIVING "YES" / "NO" ANSWERS NUMBER 1. HAS ANY AMOUNT BEEN RECEIVED BY OR HAS IT ACCRUED TO OR IN FAVOUR OF ANY PERSON? 2. IS SUCH RECEIPT OR ACCRUAL BY VIRTUE OF ANY CONTRACT? 3. WAS THE CONTRACT MADE BY HIM?

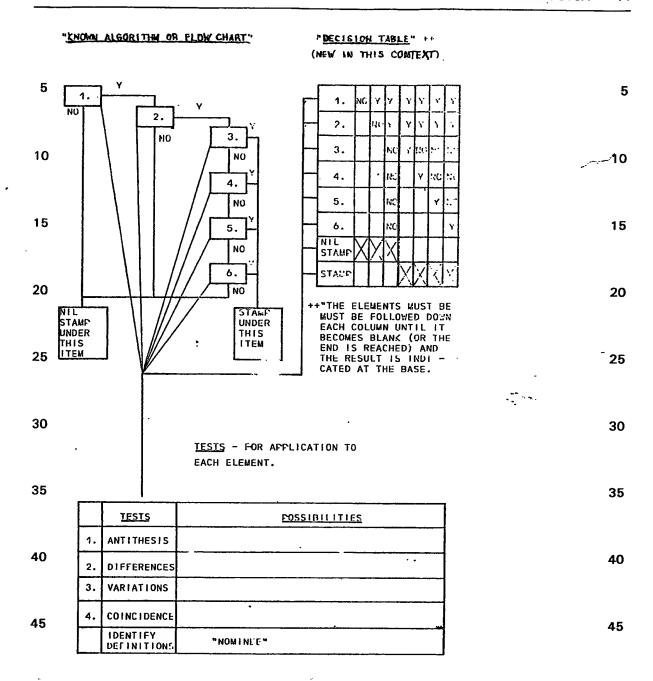


EXAMPLES "NORMAL LANGUAGE FORMAT" (10) IF ANY SCHEME OF ARRANGEMENT OR RECONSTRUCTION OF ANY 5 COMPANY OR ITS AFFAIRS (INCLUDING A SCHEME FOR THE 5 AMALGAMATION OF TWO OR MORE COMPANIES) HAS BEEN SANC-BY ANY ORDER OF COURT, AND UNDER THAT SCHEME ANY SHARES ISSUED BY ANY COMPANY ARE CANCELLED WITH OR WITHOUT RETURN 10 10 OF CAPITAL AND-(12A) FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 7(hA) AND OF SUBSECTIONS (10), (11) AND (12) OF THIS SECTION AND ITEM 15(4) OF SCHEDULE 1-15 15 THE REFERENCES THEREIN TO "SHARES" SHALL BE DEEMED TO INCLUDE REFERENCES TO STOCK AND DEBENTURES; "CANCELLED" MEANS CANCELLED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND (B) "CANCELLATION" SHALL BE CONSTRUED ACCORDINGLY; 20 SHARES, STOCK OR DEBENTURES ISSUED BY ANY COMPANY SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE CANCELLED IN PART IF ANY RIGHTS ATTACHING TO SUCH SHARES, STOCK OR DEBENTURES ARE ALTERED SO AS TO RESULT IN A MATERIAL DIMUNITION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE HOLDERS OF SUCH SHARES, STOCK OR DEBENTURES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROFITS OR GAINS OF 25 25 SUCH COMPANY OR TO RECEIVE ANY DIVIDEND OR OTHER DIS-TRIBUTION OR ANY INTEREST OR OTHER PAYMENT FROM SUCH COMPANY; WHERE SHARES, STOCK OR DEBENTURES ARE CANCELLED IN PART AS AFORESAID, THE CONSIDERATION TO BE DETERMINED 30 30 UNDER SUBSECTION (10) IN RESPECT OF SUCH PART-CANCELLATION SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE THE FULL MARKET VALUE OF SUCH SHARES, STOCK OR DEBENTURES AS DETER-MINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THAT SUBSECTION, LESS SUCH 35 AMOUNT AS THE SECRETARY MAY DETERMINE AS THE VALUE OF 35 SUCH SHARES, STOCKS OR DEBENTURES IMMEDIATELY AFTER SUCH PART-CANCELLATION. . 40 40 "EXPOSING THE ELMENTS" **ELEMENT** THE QUESTIONS GIVING "YES" / "NO" ANSWERS NUMBER 45 45 ARE THE MECHANICS INVOLVED A SCHEME OF ARRANGEMENT 1. OR RECONSTRUCTION? 2. HAS THE SCHEME BEEN SANCTIONED BY ANY ORDER OF COURT? 50 50 IS WHAT IS CANCELLED "SHARES ISSUED" (INCLUDING 3. **DEBENTURES OR STOCK)?** IS THERE A CANCELLATION IN WHOLE OR IN PART OF "SHARES ISSUED", HERE INCLUDING, INTER ALIA ANY RIGHTS ATTACHING 55 55 TO SUCH SHARES, ETC. IN SUBJECT COMPANY BEING ALTERED TO **RESULT IN MATERIAL DIMUNITION OF RIGHTS OF HOLDERS TO** RECEIVE ANY DIVIDEND, DISTRIBUTION, INTEREST OR OTHER PAYMENT FROM SUCH COMPANY?



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	EXAMPLES "NORMAL L	ANGUAGE FORMAT''	
5	AQUISITON THE TAX PR	PECT OF THE ACQUISITION (OTHER THAN AN BY WAY OF A PURCHASE IN RESPECT OF WHICH EFERRED TO IN SECTION 2 OF THE MARKETABLE TAX ACT, 1948 (ACT NO. 32 OF 1948), HAS	5
10	BECOME PAY TO AS THE T (HEREINAFT)	YABLE BY ANY PERSON (HEREINAFTER REFERRED FRANSFEREE) FROM ANY OTHER PERSON OF ANY ER REFERRED TO AS THE TRANSFEROR) OF ANY E SECURITY ON OR AFTER 1ST AUGUST, 1972,	10
15	(A) IMMEDI (OTHER RESPEC (B) IMMEDI TRANSF	IATELY PRIOR TO SUCH ACQUISITION ANY PERSON THAN THE TRANSFEREE) WAS A NOMINEE IN IT OF SUCH MARKETABLE SECURITY; OR IATELY PRIOR TO SUCH ACQUISITION THE FEREE WAS A NOMINEE IN RESPECT OF SUCH	15
20	(C) AFTER S TO BE C MARKE A NOMI	TABLE SECURITY; OR SUCH ACQUISITION THE TRANSFEROR CONTINUES OR BECOMES THE REGISTERED HOLDER OF SUCH TABLE SECURITY AND BECOMES OR IS TO BECOME INEE IN RESPECT OF SUCH MARKETABLE SECURITY O BE THE FOLLOWING:	20
25			25
	"EXPOSING	THE ELEMENTS"	
30	ELEMENT NUMBER	THE QUESTIONS GIVING "YES"/"NO" ANSWERS	30
0.5	1.	HAS THERE BEEN AN ACQUISITION OF A MARKETABLE SECURITY BY ANY PERSON (X) FROM ANY OTHER PERSON (Y)?	
35	2.	WAS THIS ACQUISITION AFTER 1 AUGUST 1972?	35
40	3.	WAS ANY PERSON OTHER THAN X A NOMINEE IN RESPECT OF SUCH MARKETABLE SECURITY IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO ACQUISITION BY X?	40
	4.	WAS X A NOMINEE IN RESPECT OF SUCH MARKETABLE SECURITY IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO HIS ACQUIRING IT?	
45	5.	WAS Y A REGISTERED HOLDER BEFORE AND AFTER THE ACQUISITION BEING NOMINEE BEFORE?	45
50	6.	AFTER THE ACQUISITION WILL Y BECOME OR CONTINUE TO BE THE REGISTERED HOLDER AS NOMINEE FOR SUCH	



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CLAIMS

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1. A process for the presentation and thereafter and therewith the better interpretation of fiscal legislation and in addition a method of assisting in the teaching of students (in the broadest sense) and practitioners (in the broadest sense) both of which are made possible by 5 reducing the text of the legislation to its elements which are then in turn and in the manner 5 shown in the examples given, represented by questions giving a yes/no answer situation which in turn give rise to "a decision table" showing an ultimate result which is directly linked to a 'tax" or "no tax" position (in the broad sense) inherent in the text. The formulation of and the decision table, together with the text of the questions and the legislation which all together then 10 have immutability and a quasi scientific character, make up this process. 10 2. A process which is a combination of the process according to claim 1 (culminating in a decision table) and an algorithum which is formulated by representing the relevant fiscal text is reduced to its elements and as further reduced to the aforesaid questions (each giving a yes/no answer) in the manner shown and illustrated in the examples and the application thereto of the 15 four-way test (as set out in the examples) whereby, more particularly as a result of the degree of immutability achieved and the quasi-scientific characteristics inherent as described above-(a) greater and more efficient proficiency is achieved for those seeking legitimately so to plan or conduct their affairs as to attract the minimum tax, i.e. for the tax avoider; (b) greater and more efficient proficiency is achieved by the authoratative body (usually the 20 State), those seeking to extract by taxation legislation and tax collection, that which is due to the FISCAL Authority. 3. Each of the processes according to claims 1 and 2 extended to all types of fiscal legislation in the world not limited in any way whether by language, nation or jurisdiction or 25 4. The processes of claims 1, 2 and 3 produced so as to be received through common media of communication or otherwise including written or printed reproduction, on paper or through video-screen computer terminal, computer screen, television or other similar means or 5. The processes of claims 1, 2 and 3 stored (when complete or in the process of 30 formulation), on or in physical recording material by magnetic, electric or other means howsoever for example (but without limitation) silicone chips, bubble memory devices or computer tapes or discs. 6. The processes of claims 1, 2 and 3 in their physical embodument when stored on or in 35 35 each of (a) a silicone chip a computer tape (b) (c) a computer disc a bubble memory device (d) 40 40 any of the other physical recording materials referred to in claim 5. A silicone chip physically embodying by storage (or adhering to which is) any of the processes of claims 1, 2 and/or 3. 8. A computer tape physically embodying by storage (or adhering to which is) any of the

processes of claims 1, 2 and/or 3. 9. A computer disc physically embodying by storage (or adhering to which is) any of the 45 processes of claim 1, 2 and/or 3.

10. A bubble memory device physically embodying by storage (or adhering to which is) any of the processes of claim 1, 2 and/or 3.

11. Any of the other physical recording materials referred to in claim 5 physically 50 embodying by storage (or adhering to which is) any of the processes of claim 1, 2 and/or 3.

12. The processes substantially as herein described with reference to the examples.13. The physical embodument, as stored and/or reproduced of the processes substantially as herein described with reference to the examples.